

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0069

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION UN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2568

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SA ANNOUNCES MILITARY ON CAPRIVI STRIP BORDER:

ARMY RECRUITS BLACKS.

1. JUNE 14 NEWSPAPERS REPORT FIRST PUBLIC DISCLOSURE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE (SADF) REPLACED POLICE ON BORDER DUTY IN CAPRIVI STRIP IN MARCH 1973. ANNOUNCEMENT MADE TO GROUP OF SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSMEN IN CAPRIVI STRIP LAST WEEK BY SA MIN DEFENSE P.W. BOTHA. CHIEF OF SA DEFENSE FORCE, ADMIRAL H.H. BIERMAN, ACCOMPANIED BOTHA AND NEWSMEN ON TOUR OF CAPRIVI BORDER POSTS.

2. ACCORDING TO AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS, SADF TOOK OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR BORDER SECURITY ONLY ALONG 160 KM BORDER WITH ZAMBIA. MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEM FOR SA ORIGINATES FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) BASES IN ZAMBIA. HOWEVER, RAND DAILY MAIL AND PRETORIA
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NEWS REPORT SADF HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR

SECURITY ALONG ENTIRE 2408 KM NORTHERN BORDER OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND CAPRIVI STRIP. ACCORDING TO MAIL, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN FEW INCIDENTS ALONG ANGOLAN BORDER, IT IS FEARED THAT CHANGES FOLLOWING PORTUGUESE COUP MAY LEAD TO INCREASED GUERRILLA INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS.

3. BOTH SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AREA AND PARTICIPATION OF BLACK POPULATION IN FIGHT AGAINST "TERRORISM". DEFENSE SPOKESMEN QUOTED AS SAYING ANTI-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN 20 PERCENT MILITARY AND 80 PERCENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC.

4. SPEAKING AT KATIMA MULILO DURING CAPRIVI INSPECTION TOUR, BOTHA SAID SADF WOULD NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY WHITE. COLORED POPULATION ALREADY HAS " OPPORTUNITY TO DO THEIR SHARE" AND HE BELIEVES INDIAN COMMUNITY CAN ALSO BE GIVEN " OPPORTUNITY OF HELPING INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE COUNTRY." BOTHA ALSO SAID SADF MUST GRADUALLY PREPARE " OUR" BLACK GOVERNMENTS TO PLAY PART IN ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT. PREPARATION MAY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN WITH JUNE 13 VISIT OF LEADERS OF EIGHT SOUTH AFRICAN HOMELANDS TO POLICE COUNTER-INSURGENCY TRAINING CAMP. PROFESSOR HUDSON NTSANWISI, CHIEF MINISTER OF GARANKULU HOMELAND, RESPONDED TO VISIT BY SAYING THAT AFRICANS MUST BE GIVEN " A STAKE" IN SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING ITS DEFENSE.

4. JUNE 14 WORLD, JOHANNESBURG AFRICAN NEWSPAPER, CARRIER SADF RECRUITING ADVERTISEMENT, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND, FOR " AFRICAN GUARDS IN SA ARMY". ADVERTISEMENT, WHICH TELLS AFRICANS THAT THEY " TOO CAN FIND A CAREER IN THE SA ARMY," HAS PICTURE OF UNIFORMED AFRICAN HOLDING R1 RIFLE. SADF CURRENTLY USING LOCALLY RECRUITED, ARMED AND UNIFORMED AFRICAN TRACKERS IN CAPRIVI STRIP. WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA, SADF USES AFRICANS TO HELP GUARD GATES AT DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND AS CHAUFFEURS. RECRUITING DRIVE MAY PRESAGE EXPANDED AFRICAN ROLE IN SADF.
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